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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
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МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ АМНИСТИЯ
منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL **AI Index: ASA 21/06/96**

EXTRA 08/96 Arbitrary detention / Fear of ill-treatment **18 January 1996**

INDONESIA / EAST TIMOR

Fernando Gomes
Dominggos Cortereal
Carlos Antonio
Lucio Quintao
Manuel Lelo
Nelson Guterres
Elsa Camila Viegas (f)
Leonildo da Costa
Fransisco
Bernardino
Lisio Fatima Goncalves Soares
Rosito Soares
Alexander da Cunha
Plancido Hugo Bovida
Luis de Jesus

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of 15 East Timorese arrested in Jakarta on 12 January 1996 whose exact whereabouts remain unknown.

At around 8.30am on 12 January, a group of seven East Timorese, Fernando Gomes, Dominggos Cortereal, Carlos Antonio, Lucio Quintao, Manuel Lelo, Nelson Guterres and Elsa Camila Viegas, were allegedly arrested in front of the Japanese Embassy. It is believed that they were arrested by police who suspected that they would enter the Japanese Embassy and seek asylum. The seven are now believed to be in police custody, but it is not known exactly where they are being held or whether they have had access to legal counsel of their choice.

Also on 12 January, eight other East Timorese, Leonildo da Costa, Fransisco, Bernardino, Lisio Fatima Goncalves Soares, Rosito Soares, Alexander da Cunha, Plancido Hugo Bovida and Luis de Jesus, were arrested at around 11.30am in Grogol, West Jakarta. It is not known exactly where they were arrested, but it is believed that on 6 January five of the group had previously attempted to enter the Bulgarian Embassy to seek asylum. It is thought that the eight are being held at the District Military Command (KODIM) in West Jakarta but it is not known whether they have had access to independent legal counsel.

Amnesty International is concerned that the 15 may have been arbitrarily arrested, in that they do not appear to have been formally charged and have been held longer than the 24-hour legal limit for detention without charge. Moreover, the organization fears that as long as the detainees are denied access to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and independent legal counsel, they are at heightened risk of ill-treatment in custody.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

East Timorese suspected of opposition to Indonesian rule of East Timor are at risk of arbitrary detention and torture. Those arrested are often held incommunicado detention, further increasing the risk of torture and ill-treatment. In recent months, at least 50 East Timorese have left Indonesia for Portugal after seeking asylum in foreign embassies in Jakarta. Another 112, both Indonesians and East Timorese, entered the Dutch and Russian embassies in December 1995, but were ultimately forced out of the embassies into police custody. A request for asylum by some of the East Timorese in the Dutch Embassy was apparently ignored. Both groups were subsequently held in police custody for around 24 hours and then released but have since come under intensive surveillance by the Armed Forces (see EXTRA 157/95, ASA 21/64/95, 7 December 1995 and follow-ups).

Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom

Tel: (44)(171) 413 5500 Fax: 956 1157 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 E-mail: (GeoNet) mcr1:amnesty-is, (GreenNet) amnestyis@gn.apc.org

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Bahasa Indonesia, English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to clarify the whereabouts of the 15 East Timorese;
- seeking assurances that all those detained are being treated humanely in accordance with international standards; that they are being given access to lawyers of their choice; that their relatives are informed of their whereabouts; and that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is allowed regular unrestricted access to their place of detention;
- requesting that, unless they are charged with recognizably criminal offences, they be immediately released;
- seeking assurances that no one will be subjected to arrest simply for engaging in peaceful opposition activities to Indonesian rule in East Timor.

APPEALS TO:

MILITARY COMMANDER FOR REGION X/JAKARTA RAYA
(covers Greater Jakarta)
Maj. Gen. Wiranto
Pangdam X/Jakarta Raya
Markas Besar KODAM X/Jaya
Jl. Mayjen Sutoyo
Jakarta
Indonesia
Telegrams: Pangdam X/Jakarta Raya, Jakarta, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Maj. Gen. Wiranto

CHIEF OF NATIONAL POLICE
Maj. Gen (Pol.) Banurusman Atmosumitro
Kapolri
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI
Jl. Trunojoyo 13
Kebayoran Baru
Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia
Telegrams: National Police Chief, Jakarta, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Major General

COPIES TO:

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Ali Alatas S.H.
Menteri Luar Negeri
Jl. Medan Taman Pejambon No.6
Jakarta
Indonesia
Faxes: +62 21 345 0517/360 517

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 February 1996.